

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. A printing system, comprising:
a printer including:
a processor; and
a printing component in communication with said processor; and
a filtering program associated with said processor so as to control printing of a file by said printing component based on at least one of a presence or absence of at least one prespecified characteristic from a packet including said file.
2. The printing system of claim 1, wherein said filtering program is stored by at least one of a memory device and firmware of said printer associated with said processor.
3. The printing system of claim 1, wherein said filtering program is stored by at least one of a memory device and firmware external to said printer and in communication with said processor.
4. The printing system of claim 3, further comprising:
a computer including said at least one of said memory device and said firmware, a processor in communication with said at least one of said memory device and said firmware, and a communication port for at least partially establishing communication between said processor of said computer and said processor of said printer.
5. The printing system of claim 1, wherein said at least one prespecified characteristic comprises at least one of an undesirable characteristic and a desirable characteristic.
6. The printing system of claim 5, wherein said filtering program causes said processor to prevent said printing component from printing a file of a packet having at least one said undesirable characteristic.

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7. The printing system of claim 5, wherein said filtering program instructs said processor to cause said printing component to print a file of a packet having said desirable characteristic.

8. The printing system of claim 5, wherein said filtering program instructs said processor to cause said printing component to print said file only if said packet lacks said undesirable characteristic and has said desirable characteristic.

9. The printing system of claim 5, wherein said undesirable characteristic comprises one of a file type, a file string, a source computer identifier, a user identifier, a file size, and at least one prespecified command.

10. The printing system of claim 5, wherein said desirable characteristic comprises one of a source computer identifier, a user identifier, a file type, and a password.

11. A device-specific filtering method, comprising:
transmitting a packet comprising at least one file from a source computer, across a network, to a device of said network;
evaluating at least one prespecified characteristic of said packet following passage of said packet through a server of said network; and
controlling at least one of further transmission of said packet to said device and processing of said at least one file of said packet by said device based on said evaluating.

12. The device-specific filtering method of claim 11, wherein said evaluating at least one prespecified characteristic comprises evaluating at least one of an undesirable characteristic and a desirable characteristic.

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13. The device-specific filtering method of claim 12, wherein said controlling comprises preventing said at least one of further transmission of said packet to said device and processing of said at least one file of said packet by said device if said packet has at least one said undesirable characteristic.

14. The device-specific filtering method of claim 12, wherein said controlling comprises permitting said at least one of further transmission of said packet to said device and processing of said at least one file of said packet by said device if said packet has said desirable characteristic.

15. The device-specific filtering method of claim 12, wherein said controlling comprises permitting said at least one of further transmission of said packet to said device and processing of said at least one file of said packet by said device if said packet lacks said undesirable characteristic and has said desirable characteristic.

16. The device-specific filtering method of claim 12, wherein said evaluating comprises evaluating said packet for at least one said undesirable characteristic comprising at least one of a file type, a file string, a source computer identifier, a user identifier, a file size, and at least one prespecified command.

17. The device-specific filtering method of claim 12, wherein said evaluating comprises evaluating said packet for at least one said desirable characteristic comprising at least one of a source computer identifier, a user identifier, a file type, and a password.

18. The device-specific filtering method of claim 11, wherein said evaluating is effected by a processor of said device.

19. The device-specific filtering method of claim 11, wherein said evaluating is effected by a processor external to and in communication with a processor of said device.

